## SENATE BILL No. 454

#### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 34-20.5.

Synopsis: Silicosis. Provides that civil actions alleging a silica or mixed dust disease claim may not be maintained unless the plaintiff: (1) makes a prima facie showing that the plaintiff has a physical impairment and that the plaintiff's exposure to silica or mixed dust is a substantial contributing factor to the physical impairment; and (2) establishes technical and other standards for making the prima facie showing. Requires a court to dismiss a silica or mixed dust claim without prejudice if the plaintiff does not make a prima facie showing within 120 days after the filing of the claim. Specifies that the statute of limitations does not begin to run until the plaintiff discovers or should have discovered the disease or injury. Provides that a premises owner is not liable for injury to an individual resulting from exposure unless the exposure occurred while the individual was on the premises owner's property. Specifies that a civil action may be filed only in the venue: (1) where the plaintiff resides; or (2) where the exposure to silica, mixed dust, or both, that was a substantial contributing factor to the plaintiff's physical impairment occurred.

Effective: July 1, 2007.

# Steele

January 11, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.



#### First Regular Session 115th General Assembly (2007)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

C

### SENATE BILL No. 454

0

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning civil procedure.

p

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

У

| 1 | SECTION 1. IC 34-20.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS |
|---|---|
| 2 | A NEW ARTICLE TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1    |
| 3 | 2007]:  |

#### ARTICLE 20.5. CAUSES OF ACTION: SILICOSIS

Chapter 1. Application

Sec. 1. This article applies to every civil action alleging a silica or mixed dust disease claim that is filed after June 30, 2007.

Chapter 2. Definitions

Sec. 1. The definitions set forth in this chapter apply throughout this article.

- Sec. 2. "AMA guides to the evaluation of permanent impairment" means the most recent version of the American Medical Association's "Guidelines for Assessment of Permanent Medical Impairment" at the time of the performance of any examination or test required under this Act.
- Sec. 3. "Board certified" means a medical doctor is currently certified by one of the medical specialty boards approved by either



5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

| 1  | the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American            |
|----|--|
| 2  | Osteopathic Board of Osteopathic Specialties.                        |
| 3  | Sec. 4. "Board certified in occupational medicine" means a           |
| 4  | medical doctor who is certified in the subspecialty of occupational  |
| 5  | medicine by the American Board of Preventive Medicine or the         |
| 6  | American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine.                   |
| 7  | Sec. 5. "Board certified oncologist" means a medical doctor who      |
| 8  | is certified in the subspecialty of medical oncology by the American |
| 9  | Board of Internal Medicine or the American Osteopathic Board of      |
| 10 | Internal Medicine.   |
| 11 | Sec. 6. "Board certified pathologist" means a medical doctor         |
| 12 | who holds primary certification in anatomic pathology or clinical    |
| 13 | pathology from the American Board of Pathology or the American       |
| 14 | Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.                              |
| 15 | Sec. 7. "Board certified pulmonary specialist" means a medical       |
| 16 | doctor who is certified in the subspecialty of pulmonary medicine    |
| 17 | by the American Board of Internal Medicine or the American           |
| 18 | Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.                              |
| 19 | Sec. 8. "Certified B-reader" means a person who has                  |
| 20 | successfully completed the x-ray interpretation course sponsored     |
| 21 | by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health         |
| 22 | (NIOSH) and passed the B-reader certification examination for        |
| 23 | x-ray interpretation and whose NIOSH certification is current at     |
| 24 | the time of any readings required by this chapter.                   |
| 25 | Sec. 9. "Civil action" means all suits or claims of a civil nature   |
| 26 | in a court of record. The term does not include any of the           |
| 27 | following:   |
| 28 | (1) An action relating to any claim for worker's compensation.       |
| 29 | (2) An action alleging any claim or demand made against a            |
| 30 | trust established pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 524(g).                      |
| 31 | (3) An action alleging any claim or demand made against a            |
| 32 | trust established pursuant to a plan of reorganization               |
| 33 | confirmed under the United States Bankruptcy Code.                   |
| 34 | (4) An action arising under the Federal Employers Liability          |
| 35 | Act pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 51 et seq.                                 |
| 36 | Sec. 10. "Competent medical authority" means a medical doctor        |
| 37 | who meets the following requirements:                                |
| 38 | (1) The medical doctor is board certified in occupational            |
| 39 | medicine, a board certified oncologist, a board certified            |
| 40 | pathologist, or a board certified pulmonary specialist.              |
| 41 | (2) The medical doctor is actually treating, or has treated, the     |
| 42 | exposed person and has or had a doctor-patient relationship          |



| 1  | with the exposed person or, in the case of a board certified          |  |
|----|---|--|
| 2  | pathologist, has examined tissue samples of pathological slides       |  |
| 3  | of the exposed person at the request of a treating medical            |  |
| 4  | doctor.   |  |
| 5  | (3) As the basis for the diagnosis, the medical doctor has not        |  |
| 6  | relied, in whole or in part, on any of the following:                 |  |
| 7  | (A) The reports or opinions of any doctor, clinic,                    |  |
| 8  | laboratory, or testing company that performed an                      |  |
| 9  | examination, test, or screening of the exposed person's               |  |
| 10 | medical condition in violation of any law, regulation,                |  |
| 11 | licensing requirement, or medical code of practice with               |  |
| 12 | regard to the diagnosis set forth in the report required              |  |
| 13 | under IC 34-20.5-3 of the state in which that examination,            |  |
| 14 | test, or screening was conducted.                                     |  |
| 15 | (B) The reports or opinions of any doctor, clinic,                    |  |
| 16 | laboratory, or testing company that performed an                      |  |
| 17 | examination, test, or screening of the exposed person's               |  |
| 18 | medical condition outside the context of an existing                  |  |
| 19 | doctor-patient relationship.  |  |
| 20 | (C) The reports or opinions of any doctor, clinic,                    |  |
| 21 | laboratory, or testing company that performed an                      |  |
| 22 | examination, test, or screening of the exposed person's               |  |
| 23 | medical condition that required the exposed person to                 |  |
| 24 | agree to retain the services of a law firm or lawyer                  |  |
| 25 | sponsoring the examination, test, or screening.                       |  |
| 26 | (4) The medical doctor spends not more than twenty-five               |  |
| 27 | percent (25%) of the doctor's annual practice time in                 |  |
| 28 | providing consulting or expert services in connection with            |  |
| 29 | prosecuting or defending actual or potential tort actions, and        |  |
| 30 | the medical doctor's medical group, professional corporation,         |  |
| 31 | clinic, or other affiliated group earns not more than                 |  |
| 32 | twenty-five percent (25%) of its revenues from providing              |  |
| 33 | these services.   |  |
| 34 | (5) The requirements for determining "competent medical               |  |
| 35 | authority" set forth in subdivisions (2) through (4) may be           |  |
| 36 | waived by written agreement of all of the parties.                    |  |
| 37 | Sec. 11. "Exposed person" means a person whose exposure to            |  |
| 38 | silica or mixed dust is the basis for a silicosis claim or mixed dust |  |
| 39 | disease claim.  |  |
| 40 | Sec. 12. "ILO scale" means the system for the classification of       |  |
| 41 | chest x-rays set forth in the International Labour Office's           |  |
| 42 | "Guidelines for the Use of ILO International Classification of        |  |



Radiographs of Pneumoconioses," 2000 edition or, if amended, the version in effect at the time of the performance of any examination or test on the exposed person required under this article.

Sec. 13. "Lung cancer" means a malignant tumor in which the primary site of origin of the cancer is inside the lungs.

Sec. 14. "Mixed dust" means a mixture of dusts composed of silica and one (1) or more other fibrogenic dusts capable of inducing pulmonary fibrosis if inhaled in sufficient quantity.

Sec. 15. "Mixed dust disease claim" means any claim for damages, losses, indemnification, contribution, or other relief arising out of, based on, or in any way related to inhalation of, exposure to, or contact with mixed dust. The term includes a claim made by or on behalf of any person who has been exposed to mixed dust, or any representative, spouse, parent, child, or other relative of that person, for injury, including mental or emotional injury, death, or loss to the person, risk of disease or other injury, costs of medical monitoring or surveillance, or any other effects on the person's health that are caused by the person's exposure to mixed dust.

Sec. 16. "Mixed dust pneumoconiosis" means the lung disease caused by the pulmonary response to inhaled mixed dusts and does not mean silicosis and another pneumoconiosis, including asbestosis.

Sec. 17. "Nonmalignant condition" means a condition, other than a diagnosed cancer, that is caused or may be caused by either silica or mixed dust, whichever is applicable.

Sec. 18. "Pathological evidence of mixed dust pneumoconiosis" means a statement by a board certified pathologist that more than one (1) representative section of lung tissue uninvolved with any other disease process demonstrates a pattern of peribronchiolar and parenchymal stellate (star-shaped) nodular scarring and that there is no other more likely explanation for the presence of the fibrosis.

Sec. 19. "Pathological evidence of silicosis" means a statement by a board certified pathologist that more than one (1) representative section of lung tissue uninvolved with any other disease process demonstrates a pattern of round silica nodules and birefringent crystals or other demonstration of crystal structures consistent with silica (well organized concentric whorls of collagen surrounded by inflammatory cells) in the lung parenchyma and that there is no other more likely explanation for the presence of the fibrosis.









| 1  | Sec. 20. "Physical impairment" means the condition of an              |
|----|---|
| 2  | exposed person if one (1) or more of the following subdivisions       |
| 3  | apply to the person:  |
| 4  | (1) The diagnosis of the person by a competent medical                |
| 5  | authority, based on the detailed medical history, a medical           |
| 6  | examination, and pulmonary function testing, is that both of          |
| 7  | the following apply to the person:                                    |
| 8  | (A) The person has a permanent respiratory impairment                 |
| 9  | rating of at least class 2, as defined by and evaluated               |
| 10 | pursuant to the AMA guides to the evaluation of                       |
| 11 | permanent impairment.   |
| 12 | (B) The person has silicosis or mixed dust disease based at           |
| 13 | a minimum on radiological or pathological evidence of                 |
| 14 | silicosis or radiological or pathological evidence of mixed           |
| 15 | dust disease.   |
| 16 | (2) Radiological or pathological evidence indicates that the          |
| 17 | person has silicosis or mixed dust disease.                           |
| 18 | (3) Evidence indicates that the exposed person has substantial        |
| 19 | occupational exposure to silica or mixed dust.                        |
| 20 | Sec. 21. "Premises owner" means a person who owns, in whole           |
| 21 | or in part, leases, rents, maintains, or controls privately owned     |
| 22 | lands, ways, or waters, or any buildings and structures on those      |
| 23 | lands, ways, or waters, and all privately owned and state owned       |
| 24 | lands, ways, or waters leased to a private person, firm, or           |
| 25 | organization, including any buildings and structures on those         |
| 26 | lands, ways, or waters.   |
| 27 | Sec. 22. "Radiological evidence of mixed dust pneumoconiosis"         |
| 28 | means an ILO quality chest x-ray read by a certified B-reader as      |
| 29 | showing bilateral rounded or irregular opacities in the upper lung    |
| 30 | fields graded at least 1/1 on the ILO scale.                          |
| 31 | Sec. 23. "Radiological evidence of silicosis" means an ILO            |
| 32 | quality chest x-ray read by a certified B-reader as showing either    |
| 33 | bilateral small rounded opacities (p, q, or r) occurring primarily in |
| 34 | the upper lung fields graded at least 1/1 on the ILO scale or A, B,   |
| 35 | or C sized opacities representing complicated silicosis (also known   |
| 36 | as progressive massive fibrosis).                                     |
| 37 | Sec. 24. "Silica" means a respirable crystalline form of the          |
| 38 | naturally occurring mineral form of silicon dioxide, including, but   |
| 39 | not limited to, quartz, cristobalite, and tridymite.                  |
| 40 | Sec. 25. "Silica claim" means any claim for damages, losses,          |
| 41 | indemnification, contribution, or other relief arising out of, based  |
| 42 | on, or in any way related to inhalation of, exposure to, or contact   |



| 1  | with silica. The term includes a claim made by or on behalf of any   |   |
|----|--|---|
| 2  | person who has been exposed to silica, or any representative,        |   |
| 3  | spouse, parent, child, or other relative of that person, for injury, |   |
| 4  | including mental or emotional injury, death, or loss to the person,  |   |
| 5  | risk of disease or other injury, costs of medical monitoring or      |   |
| 6  | surveillance, or any other effects on the person's health that are   |   |
| 7  | caused by the person's exposure to silica.                           |   |
| 8  | Sec. 26. "Silicosis" means a lung disease caused by the              |   |
| 9  | pulmonary response to inhaled silica.                                |   |
| 10 | Sec. 27. "Substantial contributing factor" means both of the         | 4 |
| 11 | following:   |   |
| 12 | (1) Exposure to silica or mixed dust is the predominate cause        | • |
| 13 | of the physical impairment alleged in the silica claim or mixed      |   |
| 14 | dust disease claim, whichever is applicable.                         |   |
| 15 | (2) A competent medical authority has determined with a              |   |
| 16 | reasonable degree of medical certainty that without the silica       | 4 |
| 17 | or mixed dust exposures the physical impairment of the               |   |
| 18 | exposed person would not have occurred.                              | ` |
| 19 | Sec. 28. "Substantial occupational exposure to silica" means         |   |
| 20 | employment for a cumulative period of at least five (5) years in an  |   |
| 21 | industry and an occupation in which, for a substantial portion of    |   |
| 22 | a normal work year for that occupation, the exposed person did       |   |
| 23 | any of the following:  |   |
| 24 | (1) Handled silica.  |   |
| 25 | (2) Fabricated products containing silica so that the person         |   |
| 26 | was exposed to silica in the fabrication process.                    |   |
| 27 | (3) Altered, repaired, or otherwise worked with a product            |   |
| 28 | containing silica in a manner that exposed the person on a           |   |
| 29 | regular basis to silica.   |   |
| 30 | (4) Worked in close proximity to workers who experienced             |   |
| 31 | substantial occupational exposure to mixed dust in a manner          |   |
| 32 | that exposed the person on a regular basis to silica.                |   |
| 33 | Sec. 29. "Substantial occupational exposure to mixed dust"           |   |
| 34 | means employment for a cumulative period of at least five (5) years  |   |
| 35 | in an industry and an occupation in which, for a substantial         |   |
| 36 | portion of a normal work year for that occupation, the exposed       |   |
| 37 | person did any of the following:                                     |   |
| 38 | (1) Handled mixed dust.  |   |
| 39 | (2) Fabricated products containing mixed dust so that the            |   |
| 40 | person was exposed to mixed dust in the fabrication process.         |   |
| 41 | (3) Altered, repaired, or otherwise worked with products             |   |

containing mixed dust in a manner that exposed the person on



| 1  | a regular basis to mixed dust.                                      |   |
|----|---|---|
| 2  | (4) Worked in close proximity to other workers who                  |   |
| 3  | experienced substantial occupational exposure to silica in a        |   |
| 4  | manner that exposed the person on a regular basis to mixed          |   |
| 5  | dust.   |   |
| 6  | Sec. 30. "Veterans' benefit program" means any program for          |   |
| 7  | benefits in connection with military service under Title 38 of the  |   |
| 8  | United States Code.   |   |
| 9  | Sec. 31. "Worker's compensation law" refers to IC 22-3 and          |   |
| 10 | judicial decisions construing this provision.                       | 4 |
| 11 | Chapter 3. Prima Facie Showing                                      |   |
| 12 | Sec. 1. A person may not bring or maintain a civil action           | • |
| 13 | alleging a silica or mixed dust disease claim based on a            |   |
| 14 | nonmalignant condition in the absence of a prima facie showing      |   |
| 15 | that, in the opinion of a competent medical authority, the exposed  |   |
| 16 | person has a physical impairment, and that the person's exposure    | 4 |
| 17 | to silica or mixed dust is a substantial contributing factor to the |   |
| 18 | physical impairment. The prima facie showing must include the       | · |
| 19 | following:  |   |
| 20 | (1) Evidence that a competent medical authority has taken           |   |
| 21 | from the exposed person a detailed medical history, which           |   |
| 22 | includes, to the extent necessary to render the opinion             |   |
| 23 | referred to in this section, the occupational and exposure          |   |
| 24 | history of the exposed person. If the exposed person is             |   |
| 25 | deceased, the occupational and exposure history of the              |   |
| 26 | exposed person shall be taken from the person or persons who        |   |
| 27 | are most knowledgeable about these areas of the exposed             |   |
| 28 | person's life.  | \ |
| 29 | (2) Evidence verifying that there has been a sufficient latency     |   |
| 30 | period in the context of the chronic, accelerated, or acute         |   |
| 31 | forms of the silicosis or mixed dust disease.                       |   |
| 32 | (3) A diagnosis by a competent medical authority, based on          |   |
| 33 | the detailed medical history, a medical examination, and            |   |
| 34 | pulmonary function testing, that both of the following apply        |   |
| 35 | to the exposed person:  |   |
| 36 | (A) The exposed person has a permanent respiratory                  |   |
| 37 | impairment rating of at least class 2, as defined by and            |   |
| 38 | evaluated under the AMA guides to the evaluation of                 |   |
| 39 | permanent impairment.   |   |
| 40 | (B) The exposed person has silicosis or mixed dust disease          |   |
| 41 | based at a minimum on radiological or pathological                  |   |
| 42 | evidence of silicosis or radiological or pathological               |   |



| 1  | evidence of mixed dust disease.                                       |   |
|----|---|---|
| 2  | (4) Verification that the competent medical authority has             |   |
| 3  | concluded that exposure to silica or mixed dust was a                 |   |
| 4  | substantial contributing factor to the exposed person's               |   |
| 5  | impairment. A diagnosis that states that the medical findings         |   |
| 6  | and impairment are consistent with or compatible with silica          |   |
| 7  | or mixed dust exposure does not meet the requirements of this         |   |
| 8  | subdivision.  |   |
| 9  | Sec. 2. A person may not bring or maintain a civil action             |   |
| 10 | alleging that silica or mixed dust caused the person to contract lung | 4 |
| 11 | cancer in the absence of a prima facie showing that, in the opinion   |   |
| 12 | of a competent medical authority, the person has a primary lung       | · |
| 13 | cancer, and that the person's exposure to silica or mixed dust is a   |   |
| 14 | substantial contributing factor to the lung cancer. The prima facie   |   |
| 15 | showing must include the following:                                   |   |
| 16 | (1) Evidence that a competent medical authority has taken             | 4 |
| 17 | from the exposed person a detailed medical history, which             |   |
| 18 | includes, to the extent necessary to render the opinion               |   |
| 19 | referred to this section, the occupational and exposure history       |   |
| 20 | of the exposed person. If the exposed person is deceased, the         |   |
| 21 | occupational and exposure history of the exposed person shall         |   |
| 22 | be taken from the person or persons who are most                      |   |
| 23 | knowledgeable about these areas of the exposed person's life.         |   |
| 24 | (2) Evidence sufficient to demonstrate that at least ten (10)         | _ |
| 25 | years have elapsed from the date of the exposed person's first        |   |
| 26 | exposure to silica or mixed dust until the date of diagnosis of       |   |
| 27 | the exposed person's primary lung cancer.                             |   |
| 28 | (3) Radiological or pathological evidence of silicosis or             | , |
| 29 | radiological or pathological evidence of mixed dust disease.          |   |
| 30 | (4) Evidence of the exposed person's substantial occupational         |   |
| 31 | exposure to silica or mixed dust.                                     |   |
| 32 | (5) Verification that the competent medical authority has             |   |
| 33 | concluded that exposure to silica or mixed dust was a                 |   |
| 34 | substantial contributing factor to the exposed person's lung          |   |
| 35 | cancer. A diagnosis that states that the cancer is consistent         |   |
| 36 | with or compatible with silica or mixed dust exposure does not        |   |
| 37 | meet the requirements of this subdivision.                            |   |
| 38 | Sec. 3. A person may not bring or maintain a civil action             |   |
| 39 | alleging a silica or mixed dust disease claim based on the wrongful   |   |
| 40 | death of an exposed person in the absence of a prima facie showing    |   |

that, in the opinion of a competent medical authority, the death of

the exposed person was the result of a physical impairment and



41

that the person's exposure to silica or mixed dust was a substantial contributing factor to the physical impairment causing the person's death. The prima facie showing must include the following:

- (1) Evidence that a competent medical authority has taken from the exposed person a detailed medical history, which includes, to the extent necessary to render the opinion referred to in this section, the occupational and exposure history of the exposed person. If the exposed person is deceased, the occupational and exposure history of the exposed person shall be taken from the person or persons who are most knowledgeable about these areas of the exposed person's life.
- (2) Evidence sufficient to demonstrate that at least ten (10) years have elapsed from the date of the exposed person's first exposure to silica or mixed dust until the date of diagnosis of the exposed person's primary lung cancer or, if the death is not alleged to be cancer related, evidence verifying that there has been a sufficient latency period in the context of the chronic, accelerated, or acute forms of the silicosis or mixed dust disease.
- (3) Radiological or pathological evidence of silicosis or radiological or pathological evidence of mixed dust disease.
- (4) Evidence of the exposed person's substantial occupational exposure to silica or mixed dust.
- (5) Verification that the competent medical authority has concluded that exposure to silica or mixed dust was a substantial contributing factor to the exposed person's death. A diagnosis that states that the medical findings, impairment, or lung cancer are consistent with or compatible with silica or mixed dust exposure does not meet the requirements of this subdivision.

Sec. 4. Evidence relating to any physical impairment under this article, including pulmonary function testing and diffusing studies, must comply with the technical recommendations for examinations, testing procedures, quality assurance, quality control, and equipment incorporated in the AMA guides to the evaluation of permanent impairment and the official statements of the American Thoracic Society regarding lung function testing, including general considerations for lung function testing, standardization of spirometry, standardization of the measurement of lung volumes, standardization of the single-breath determination of carbon monoxide uptake in the lung, and













| 1  | interpretative strategies for lung testing in effect at the time of the   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 2  | performance of any examination or test on the exposed person              |   |
| 3  | required under this article.  |   |
| 4  | Sec. 5. In determining whether exposure to a silica or mixed              |   |
| 5  | dust was a substantial contributing factor in causing the plaintiff's     |   |
| 6  | injury or loss, the trier of fact in the action shall consider all of the |   |
| 7  | following:  |   |
| 8  | (1) The manner in which the plaintiff was exposed.                        |   |
| 9  | (2) The proximity of silica or mixed dust to the plaintiff when           |   |
| 10 | the exposure occurred.  |   |
| 11 | (3) The frequency and length of the plaintiff's exposure.                 |   |
| 12 | (4) Any factors that mitigated or enhanced the plaintiff's                |   |
| 13 | exposure to silica or mixed dust.   |   |
| 14 | Sec. 6. This article shall not be interpreted as authorizing the          |   |
| 15 | exhumation of a body.   |   |
| 16 | Chapter 4. Time Periods, Jurisdiction, and Dismissal                      |   |
| 17 | Sec. 1. (a) A plaintiff in any civil action who alleges a silica claim    |   |
| 18 | or a mixed dust disease claim, not more than one hundred and              |   |
| 19 | twenty (120) days after filing the complaint, must file a written         |   |
| 20 | report by a competent medical authority, and any supporting               |   |
| 21 | evidence, making out the applicable prima facie case described in         |   |
| 22 | IC 34-20.5-3.   |   |
| 23 | (b) A defendant has one hundred and twenty (120) days from                |   |
| 24 | the filing of the plaintiff's proffered prima facie evidence to           |   |
| 25 | challenge the adequacy of the proffered prima facie evidence for          |   |
| 26 | failure to comply with the minimum applicable requirements                |   |
| 27 | specified in IC 34-20.5-3.  |   |
| 28 | Sec. 2. (a) If the court finds that no genuine issue of material          | V |
| 29 | fact exists with respect to a plaintiff's failure to make out a prima     |   |
| 30 | facie case as described in IC 34-20.5-3, the court shall dismiss the      |   |
| 31 | plaintiff's claim without prejudice as a matter of law.                   |   |
| 32 | (b) The court shall maintain its jurisdiction over any case               |   |
| 33 | dismissed without prejudice under this section. A plaintiff whose         |   |
| 34 | case has been dismissed without prejudice under subsection (a)            |   |
| 35 | may move at any time to reinstate the plaintiff's case by making a        |   |
| 36 | renewed prima facie showing that meets the minimum                        |   |
| 37 | requirements specified in IC 34-20.5-3.                                   |   |
| 38 | Sec. 3. (a) The court's findings and decision on the prima facie          |   |
| 39 | showing shall not:  |   |
| 40 | (1) result in any presumption at trial that the exposed person            |   |
| 41 | has a physical impairment that is caused by silica or mixed               |   |
| 12 | dust exposure:  |   |



| 1  | (2) be conclusive as to the liability of any defendant in the          |
|----|--|
| 2  | case; or   |
| 3  | (3) be admissible at trial.  |
| 4  | (b) If the case is tried to a jury:                                    |
| 5  | (1) the court may not instruct the jury with respect to the            |
| 6  | court's findings or decision on the prima facie showing; and           |
| 7  | (2) neither counsel for any party nor a witness may inform the         |
| 8  | jurors or potential jurors of the prima facie showing.                 |
| 9  | Chapter 5. Statute of Limitations                                      |
| 10 | Sec. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with respect       |
| 11 | to any silica claim or mixed dust disease claim that is not barred as  |
| 12 | of July 1, 2007, the period of limitations does not begin to run until |
| 13 | the exposed person discovers, or through the exercise of reasonable    |
| 14 | diligence should have discovered, that the person has a physical       |
| 15 | impairment resulting from silica or mixed dust exposure.               |
| 16 | Sec. 2. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a court may          |
| 17 | consolidate for trial any number and type of silica or mixed dust      |
| 18 | disease claims only with the consent of all of the parties.            |
| 19 | (b) In the absence of the consent described in subsection (a), a       |
| 20 | court may consolidate for trial any claims relating to the exposed     |
| 21 | person and members of the person's household.                          |
| 22 | Chapter 6. Premises Liability  |
| 23 | Sec. 1. This chapter applies to all civil actions for silica or mixed  |
| 24 | dust disease claims brought against a premises owner to recover        |
| 25 | damages or other relief for exposure to silica or mixed dust on the    |
| 26 | premises owner's property.   |
| 27 | Sec. 2. A premises owner is not liable for any injury to any           |
| 28 | individual resulting from silica or mixed dust exposure unless that    |
| 29 | individual's alleged exposure occurred while the individual was on     |
| 30 | the premises owner's property.   |
| 31 | Sec. 3. If exposure to silica or mixed dust is alleged to have         |
| 32 | occurred after January 1, 1972, it is presumed that products           |
| 33 | containing silica or mixed dust used on the premises owner's           |
| 34 | property contained silica or mixed dust only at levels below safe      |
| 35 | levels of exposure. To rebut this presumption, the plaintiff must      |
| 36 | prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the levels of silica or  |
| 37 | mixed dust in the immediate breathing zone of the plaintiff            |
| 38 | regularly exceeded the threshold limit values adopted by this state.   |
| 39 | Sec. 4. A premises owner is presumed not to be liable for any          |
| 40 | injury to any invitee who was engaged to work with, install, or        |
| 41 | remove products containing silica or mixed dust on the premises        |

owner's property if the invitee's employer held itself out as



| 1  | qualified to perform the work. To rebut this presumption, the          |  |
|----|--|--|
| 2  | plaintiff must demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that     |  |
| 3  | the premises owner had actual knowledge of the potential dangers       |  |
| 4  | of the products containing silica or mixed dust at the time of the     |  |
| 5  | alleged exposure that was superior to the knowledge of both the        |  |
| 6  | invitee and the invitee's employer.                                    |  |
| 7  | Sec. 5. A premises owner that hired a contractor before January        |  |
| 8  | 1, 1972, to perform the type of work at the premises owner's           |  |
| 9  | property that the contractor was qualified to perform is not liable    |  |
| 10 | for any injury to any individual resulting from silica or mixed dust   |  |
| 11 | exposure caused by any of the contractor's employees or agents on      |  |
| 12 | the premises owner's property unless the premises owner directed       |  |
| 13 | the activity that resulted in the injury or approved the acts that are |  |
| 14 | alleged to be the proximate cause of the individual's injury.          |  |
| 15 | Sec. 6. If exposure to silica or mixed dust is alleged to have         |  |
| 16 | occurred after January 1, 1972, a premises owner is not liable for     |  |
| 17 | any injury to any individual resulting from that exposure caused       |  |
| 18 | by a contractor's employee or agent on the premises owner's            |  |
| 19 | property unless the plaintiff establishes:                             |  |
| 20 | (1) that the premises owner intentionally violated an                  |  |
| 21 | established safety standard in effect at the time of the               |  |
| 22 | exposure; and  |  |
| 23 | (2) that the alleged violation was in the plaintiff's immediate        |  |
| 24 | breathing zone; and  |  |
| 25 | (3) that the alleged violation was the proximate cause of the          |  |
| 26 | plaintiff's injury.  |  |
| 27 | Chapter 7. Venue   |  |
| 28 | Sec. 1. (a) For purposes of this section, a claim arises in Indiana    |  |
| 29 | if the plaintiff was located in Indiana at the time the plaintiff      |  |
| 30 | alleges to have been exposed to silica or mixed dust.                  |  |
| 31 | (b) A civil action alleging a silica claim or mixed dust disease       |  |
| 32 | claim may not be filed in the courts of Indiana after June 30, 2007,   |  |
| 33 | unless the plaintiff was a resident of Indiana at the time the claim   |  |
| 34 | arose or the plaintiff's claim arose in Indiana.                       |  |
| 35 | Sec. 2. If a civil action involves both claims that arose in Indiana   |  |
| 36 | and claims that arose outside Indiana, the court shall consider each   |  |
| 37 | claim individually and dismiss any claim that would be barred          |  |
| 38 | under section 1 of this chapter.                                       |  |
| 39 | Sec. 3. (a) A civil action under this article may be filed only in     |  |



40

41

42

the venue:

(1) where the plaintiff resides; or

(2) where the exposure to silica or mixed dust that was a

| 1 | substantial contributing factor to the plaintiff's physical            |
|---|--|
| 2 | impairment occurred.   |
| 3 | (b) If a plaintiff alleges that the plaintiff was exposed to silica or |

(b) If a plaintiff alleges that the plaintiff was exposed to silica or mixed dust in more than one (1) venue, the court shall determine, upon motion of any defendant found outside the venue in which the civil action is pending, which venue is the most appropriate forum for the claim, considering the relative amounts and lengths of the plaintiff's exposure to silica or mixed dust in each venue.

C

p

y

